

Your Housing Newsletter



September 2006

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Hours of Operation
Mon-Fri ⇌ 0830-1630

Directorate of Public Works
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PREVENT

WATER DAMAGE

~ STORM WINDOWS ~

Some service calls describing water damage through walls in quarters revealed that the storm windows were often left open by the occupants during rainy days.

Please close storm windows during periods of heavy rain to minimize water intrusion.

CLEANING GUTTERS

Clean leaves from rain gutters where possible to ensure proper drainage and prevent overflows that can cause structural damage.

Also - *please clear the elbow at the base of the downspouts for proper drainage of gutters* (at ground level).



Reminder!

Termination of Government Quarters Requires A Minimum 30-Day Notice Prior To Move-Out

Please *inform us as soon as you have knowledge that you will be leaving Fort Monroe*, even if you have not received official orders. This greatly assists us for planning purposes and to obtain maximum utilization of our government housing.

A pre-termination inspection should be set up approximately 45 to 60 days prior to your move. Please call or e-mail us to set up your pre-termination inspection 45 to 60 days before your anticipated move-out date. During the pre-termination inspection, the Housing Division Engineer Technician will determine what work will be done during the change of occupancy (e.g. painting, replacement of vinyl flooring, sanding hardwood floors, etc.). In addition, the Housing Engineer Technician will explain the procedures for properly clearing quarters, including cleaning and self-help requirements.

The Housing Division will begin offering your Quarters to soldiers on the waiting list 30 days prior to your departure date.

Halloween Safety Tips

Another year has passed and another Halloween is approaching... All of us want to have a safe and happy time on Halloween day, especially for our children and our guests. Applying safety tips and common sense can make this Halloween Season very enjoyable for everyone!

There are many ways to keeping children safe at Halloween when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement at this time of the year sometimes makes us forget to be careful. The following simple common sense tips can do a lot to stop any tragedies from happening.



Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof, the eye holes should be large enough for good peripheral vision.

If you set jack-o-lanterns, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kids costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.



Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.



Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It's best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.

Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them.



Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.



Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. The best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you can't take them, see if another parent or a teen aged sibling can go along.

Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions.



Make sure you set a time that they should be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.

Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism.



Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun but they need to know the other side of the coin as well - clean up and damages can ruin Halloween. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they've made.



Explain to your kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable. Kids may know this on their own but peer pressure can be a bad thing. Make sure that they know that harming animals is not only morally wrong but punishable by law and will not be tolerated.

Children and adults alike! Please come and visit us at the Housing Office in Bldg 28, 1st floor, on Halloween Day (Tuesday 31 October) between 1300 - 1500 for some good treats, but please no tricks!!





Fall Season Lawn Maintenance

Fall season is finally here and we must prepare our lawns for winter dormancy and spring revival, although an attractive lawn is a year-around effort. Still, fall is the single best time of the year to fertilize and seed your lawn.

Fertilizing



Nutrients are quickly depleted from the soil and must be replenished to maintain good turf growth. Most lawns need some fertilizer or they will lose color, density and become weedy.

Two or three applications per year are normal, with one during the fall season. You need to get this done before it gets really cold, but not before the heat is over.

Possibly apply the fertilizer with a mechanical spreader to insure uniform distribution. Apply half in one direction and the other half at a right angle to the first application. This will eliminate skips. Avoid applying when the grass is wet. After application, wet the grass well to wash the fertilizer in to avoid burning the grass.

Watering



The dormant period for grass is normally from late fall to early spring. During these months grass should be watered once a month. More frequent watering during the cool months produces moisture for emerging winter weeds and grasses resulting in a deteriorated lawn.

Remember you may have to draw a fine line on watering during freezing weather, so keep an eye on the weather report. Once winter officially sets in you can water by touch and rain. This means that if you haven't received any rain or snow for about 4-5 weeks you probably need to water. The touch part is to get out there and see if your lawn is looking pretty dry. If so give it a deep watering. But don't forget to disconnect the hose when you're done, just to be safe.

Self-Help Store Hours of Operations

Effective From 1 July 2006

Sunday	Closed	Under the new contract the Self-Help personnel will not be allowed to carry or load loaned equipment into your privately owned vehicle. If you have any questions or need clarification on which items are considered self-help, please give us a call at the DPW Family Housing (788-4338) or the Self-Help Store, Mr. Canton, at 788-2563
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	0830 - 1300	
Wednesday	0830 - 1700	
Thursday	0830 - 1700	
Friday	0830 - 1700	
Saturday	0830 - 1200	

Reminder!

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Keep Your Housing Information Up-To-Date

Please notify the Housing Division if your Work, Home, Cellular phone and email address change.

Emergencies situations may arise during which the Housing Staff needs to reach you without delays; also, we provide a telephone roster to the shops so that they can contact you when you submit a work request. Your home telephone number is only given out for official government use.



FALL

“DON'T DUMP INTO STORM DRAINS!”

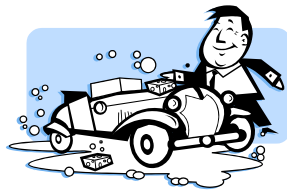
We have all seen this slogan around but often people wonder, ***why do storm drains matter so much?*** Storm drains are a hidden but important contributor to our health and safety. Storm drains remove water from streets and parking lots, making driving in wet weather safer, and reduce areas for mosquitoes to breed.

Storm drains on Fort Monroe channel water directly into the moat or the bay. There is no treatment plant removing chemicals and dirt from the water. So whatever you put down those metal grates ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. To ensure the drains don't get clogged and work properly, it's important to keep debris (leaves, grass, litter) from the drains. But perhaps the most important reason for not placing anything but rainwater down the storm drain is that ***it's against the law.***

What does this mean to all of us? It means everyone can help protect the Chesapeake

Bay by doing a few simple things. Here are a few:

- Don't Litter. If you see litter, please take a moment to pick it up. Anything dumped on the ground eventually ends up in the water.
- Recycle or properly dispose of used motor oil, antifreeze and other hazardous waste. These substances can damage or kill marine plants and animals. Never pour motor oil, antifreeze or chemicals onto the ground, down a storm drain, or into a waterway. Local service stations or other approved centers accept used oil and antifreeze.



- Take your car to a commercial car wash where the wastewater is managed to protect our waterways. Commercial car washes filter wastewater through an oil-water separator and many recycle wash water. If you choose to wash your car at home, please do so on the grass and use a mild, biodegradable soap. The grass serves as a filter preventing many toxic substances from going down the drain.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, soaps, and fertilizers away from streets, ditches, storm drains, and waterways. These add nutrients and toxics to our waterways and contribute to algae blooms and fish kills. It's important when using lawn chemicals not to overdo it but follow the directions on the label.
- Bag pet waste and place it in the trash. Pet waste contains harmful bacterial pollutants and nutrients that can damage waterway ecosystems.
- Don't store chemicals or batteries outside, where they are exposed to the elements and may spill.

Remember, only rainwater belongs in a storm drain.



REPORT ILLICIT DISCHARGES AND ILLEGAL DUMPING ACTIVITIES

Hotline Number: 757-788-5367 or 757-788-2444

Fort Monroe asks anyone who witnesses or knows about illicit discharges and/or illegal dumping into storm drains to report the incident. It is everyone's responsibility to help protect the environment. Illicit discharges and illegal dumping are not only bad for the environment, they are against the law. All reports will be kept completely confidential and private.



What is an illicit discharge? An illicit discharge is defined as any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of storm water, except for

- (1) discharges allowed under Fort Monroe's State permit *or*
- (2) water used for firefighting operations.

Illicit discharges can result from failing septic systems or illegal dumping of grass clippings, leaves, chemicals, or trash.

What is an illicit connection? An illicit connection is a pipe or hose leading to a storm sewer drain, which results in a non-stormwater discharge to the system. As a result of these connections, contaminated wastewater enters into the storm drain. Illicit connections may be intentional or unintentional but must be stopped.

Why is this important? Fort Monroe is dedicated to lessening the impacts of its activities on the sensitive waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Storm drains flow directly into the Bay without any pre-treatment or filtration. For example, if someone is illegally dumping oil into the storm drain, it travels, untreated, directly into Mill Creek or the Chesapeake Bay.

If you don't report it, who ill?



Congratulations To The Winners Of The September 2006 Yard Of The Month Competition!

Ingalls 1 -- LTC Brian and Mrs. Lisa Balough

Reeders Circle -- SFC Andrew and Mrs. Suzanna Yee

Junior Enlisted -- SGT Leslie Weaver

Ingalls 11 -- CW4 Coral and Mr. Derrick Jones

Moat Officer -- LTC Jeffrey and Mrs. Kim Pasquino / CPT Fredericka and Mr. Eric Harris

Moat Walk -- SGT Justin and Mrs. Kristin Lamb

Monroe Apartments -- SFC Charlotte Elmore

Fort Monroe Reserved Parking Policy

The Fort Monroe Parking Policy is to provide better access for parking in close proximity to the place of duty. All residents and employees are encouraged to utilize all available parking areas on Fort Monroe.

Reserved parking spaces are only authorized for and issued according to the following criteria:

- General Officers, Senior Executive Service personnel, and Colonel promotables who do not live within 10 minutes walk to their duty location
- Visitors spaces (2) are authorized near staff buildings, but will have a 2-hour time limit.
- Each organization with extended dispatch requirements is authorized one military vehicle space.
- Handicapped parking is provided in accordance with the policy set forth in the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. In order to use a designated handicapped space, individual must submit proper documentation to the Provost Marshal Office (PMO).
- Personnel living off post who carpool.

To make more parking accessible for those residing off post, all residents who live on post within a 10 minutes walk of their place of duty are encouraged to walk to work.

If you have any questions on this policy, please call DPT at 788-2523.

- Feedback -

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. It has been created for you! Please let us know what you think about our efforts to bring you information - give us your ideas - we want to ensure this Newsletter ("your" Newsletter) is tailored to suit your needs. Please provide comments and/or suggestions to our office by phone at 788-4150 or via email at monroe.housing@us.army.mil.

THE HOUSING STAFF WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

FRED BATES

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Thank You!

